[*Translation*]

Bilaspur Dam Project in Rajasthan

*810. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the Bilaspur Dam Project in Rajasthan;

(b)the details of irrigation potential likely to be created on completion of the project and the areas to be benefited thereby; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). The State Government has intimated that they have undertaken the preparation of a modified report as a multi-purpose project to provide for irrigation and water supply components on the basis of the hydrology approved by the Central Water Commission. The details of the project such as the extent of irrigation and the period of construction are not finalised.

[*English*]

Rise in prices of vegetables and fruits

*811. DR.V. RAJESWARAN:
SHRI R. DHANUSKODI ATHITHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the steep hike in prices of vegetables and fruits in most of the cities in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down their prices;

(d) whether the Government propose to distribute these commodities through public distribution system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN):(a) There has been some increase in the month end prices of some of the vegetables and fruits during 1991, as compared to 1990, for example,onion, tomato, apple and banana.

(b) The main reasons for higher prices have been the heavy and unseasonal rains in onion producing areas of Maharashtra and Gujarat, general inflationary trend, increase in the cost of packaging material, steep hike in the prices of petroleum products, thereby increasing transportation cost, etc.

(c) In order to keep the prices of vegetables under check, Government of India has been implementing a central sector scheme for the production of fruits and vegetables in the country since 1989-90. The sanctioned outlay for the year 1991-92 is Rs. 173 lakhs. Another Central sector scheme on integrated development of tropical and arid zone fruits with the outlay of Rs. 192.085 lakhs has been implemented for production of fruits in the country. Delhi Administration is making vegetables available at reasonable rates to the consumers in capital through static outlets and mobile van. Mother Dairy is also selling vegetables and fruits at reasonable rates through 166 outlets in Delhi/Noida.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Loss Incurred by NSC

*812. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: